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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no question of any length of time. Whenever cases of non-implementation of the Factories Act, the Shops and Establishments Act or the Minimum Wages Act are brought to the notice of the officers concerned, they will immediately take up the matter."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" தொழிலாளிகளுக்குக் குறைந்தபட்ச அடிப்படைச் சம்பளம் போன்ற பல சலுகைகளைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டியிருக்கு மென்பதற்காக பஸ் முதலாளிகள் தொழிலாளிகளை வேலையைவிட்டு நீக்கி அவர்களுக்குப் பதிலாக தினக்கூலி ஆட்களை நியமித்து தினக்கூலி கொடுத்துவருகிறார்கள் என்ற தகவல் வந்திருக்கிறதா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Whenever any specific case is brought to the notice of the Government or the officers concerned, they will look into the matter."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Is it a fact that the present Government are very much afraid of taking action against bus-owners even if they contravene rules? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is the usual insinuating manner in which the hon. Member puts his questions. This question does not warrant any reply from me."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In his reply, the Hon. Minister said that all the bus owners in Malabar district are generally implementing the Minimum Wages Rules except those in North Malabar who find some difficulties in implementing them. Is it not the duty of the bus-owners to pay the minimum wages fixed by the Government? May I request the Hon. Minister to find out the bus-owners who are not paying the minimum wages fixed by the Government and take action against them? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already said that when specific cases are brought to notice, the officers concerned do take action. I would request the hon. Member to wait for my answer to the next question."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister the scales of wages and daily batta fixed for drivers and conductors in the district of Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

* 671 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Janatha Motor Service, Tellicherry, North Malabar, did not grant the minimum wages fixed by the Government to the motor workers in their service till 1st July 1954; and

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(b) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) On the intervention of the Inspector of Factories, the management have since paid the arrears of wages due to the workers."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As soon as the minimum wage rule was implemented, one driver by name Balan and two other important workers of the Union were dismissed by the management. May I know whether the Government will take action against this unlawful dismissal and for the reinstatement of the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As the hon. Member is aware, Government cannot take action on a question put by an hon. Member in this House. If this is brought to the notice of the officers concerned, certainly action will be taken under the Industrial Disputes Act."

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—MOTION UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* PREVALENCE OF SMALLPOX IN MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Sri K. P. Gopalan wants to call attention to a matter of urgent public importance under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules."

* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Health to the prevalence and spread of smallpox resulting in death throughout Malabar at the present moment and the inadequacy of the measures taken by the Government to
12 noon. check the same. From the reports that I have received and from enquiry and personal knowledge, I know that smallpox is widely prevalent throughout Malabar. In every taluk the disease is prevailing and deaths are taking place. In and around the Badagara Town in the Kurumbranad taluk, as far as I understand eighty deaths have taken place. In Chirakkal and Kottayam taluks in North Malabar and in the taluks of South Malabar, deaths are taking place. Sir, the measures taken by the Government to prevent the spread of the disease are very inadequate. The accommodation provided by the Government to the victims is also very meagre. Moreover, if a family is attacked by this disease, it is very difficult for it to carry on. The members of that family will find it difficult to eke out their livelihood. People are in such a miserable position that urgent relief is necessary. I want to know from the Hon. Minister what urgent measures the Government are going to take to give relief to the people and to prevent the further spread of the disease."